Absentee Members.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Sir, a point of order, regarding your ruling with regard to the absentee members whose names are being published. May I bring to the notice of the House that the Hon'ble Member for Narakkal has denied his presence here. Under Rule 22 of the Electoral Rules, " If, for a period of 4 consecutive months, any such Member is unable to attend to the duties of his Membership, the Government may, by notification in the Gazette, declare that the seat in Council of that Member has become vacant". The Member for Narakkal has been known to us only by the number of innumerable questions he is putting, and he has not been attending here for more than double the above period.

President.—But he is attending to the duties of the Council by asking questions.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Will the Government be pleased to go into this fact? He ceases to be a Member according to Rule 22, page 20 of the Electoral Rules.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That section can be applied only, if the person is unable to attend.

President.—Now, the question to be considered is whether a Member can continue as such by sending questions without attending the Council.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I am not aware of the circumstances under which the Member is unable to attend. I only wish to draw the attention of the Government to the Rule about the question of the Member's continuing as a Member of this Council.

President.—This was brought to my notice once before.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—In Travancore, only if a Member absents himself for a period of two consecutive *sessions*, he will cease to be such. But here the period stipulated is four consecutive *months*. That is the difficulty. But it is a matter which the constituency can consider the absence of the Member and whether be could be considered to be performing the duties of the Council, as long as he sends questions and resolutions. This is also within the wording of our Rule.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, the Rules and the Regulation are unhappily worded.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I shall bring up this matter in the shape of a resolution.

Motion under S. O. 19 (1).

President.—Mr. Nunez, I have considered your letter presented to me yesterday. When I asked you for what purpose

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